

February 11, 2022

Utility Projects Update

Below please find a brief update related to several utility projects:

Bost Road Water Line Extension – The project is under construction. It should be completed within three (3) months or less.

Liberty Hill Pump Station – The notice to proceed has been issued, and construction is under way. The NJR Group will be focusing on the 12" section of pipe initially given there are production and shipping delays associated with the 16" pipe.

West Stanly Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – The 1.2 MGD expansion is almost complete. Substantial completion should be achieved by Wednesday, February 16. It is anticipated that March 1 will be the date NC DEQ will approve additional flows to the plant.

The preliminary engineering report is still in progress for the 2.5 MGD expansion project. The Board has authorized staff to pursue negotiations for additional land around the existing plant site. Further, the Board will be reviewing the proposed CIP (capital improvement plan) at the Planning Retreat on Feb 18, and staff will seek adoption of the CIP at a Board meeting in March. The CIP requires approval before the consultants can finalize their system development fee (SDFs) proposals. It is anticipated SDFs will be needed to help cover the debt service for the 2.5 MGD expansion.

Phase 4 Water & Sewer Authority Project – Chambers Engineering has completed 65% of the design and is in the NC DEQ permit application phase. Easement acquisition will need to commence very soon. There are approximately 100 easements that will need to be acquired for the project. Staff has been working to identify and evaluate potential contracted services for the easement acquisition.

Budget Public Engagement Survey Data

For the 4th consecutive year staff conducted a survey to get the public's perception of how various services are funded.

Only 79 individuals responded to the survey. However, this is a 49% increase from the 53 that responded last year. Nonetheless, the information still has some value and provides a glimpse as to how citizens view various services.

The first graph below indicates the level of priority the respondents placed on certain services. The second graph highlights perceptions regarding whether or not a specific program/service is underfunded, adequately funded or over funded.

